Rome April 8. 1863

My dear Tom

Your three notes I have had the pleasure to receive - The one introducing Mrs Mat Prowse I gave every attention to as I am sure to do to any friend of dear a brother - I half promised to go with them to St Peters on Easter Sunday, but as it was almost the time of the anniversary of my beloved ones death - I went to our English church & took the Easter sacrament

The kind advice on your last (acknowledging the £5 note) "that I must use great caution in all I do," I am thankful to you for & anticipate it in what I perceive here but I worked out so strong a position for myself in my own way & am now so identified with Rome & perhaps essential traits in its present singular state; that I do not fear any enemies who may be watching & longing for my place, indeed just those candidates I

chance whereas are so much my superiors that I can understand why I was chosen by Lt Russell & the United States, but my dear Tom you must conceal my actual age for were it known it might be taken hold of to my prejudice – there is evident from my activity & ardent spirits in all I do that I am disposed to be approaching 50 & certainly contending how much I am able to do, for I am stronger & more animated than at any portion of my life so doubt I can well dispense with his presumption in my favor – do do let me be the younger brother & I will send you my birthright for a mess of pottage, to keep me out of a mess such as the fact of my age might place me in –

I confess that my Roman adjoints is a very enviable one, many of my competitors are men of great wealth who want the place for its distinction & more than ever as I have

given birth to such importance

The account you give me of all your dear ones is very gratifying, & I see in this we resemble each even in our wifes, for the same interest concern for the welfare of our children & I trust the same success will attend you, as attended me & that you may have a "finale" like mine in all save the loss of my dear partner

It was a fond wish of mine to have my youngest daughter Eleanor & your Helen to come & sojourn with me, but I begin to be alarmed at the danger, for the Priests are prowling about after English young Ladies, to make 'em proselytes, get their money & induce disastrous marriages, of which there have been many sad examples lately in some of which I had to interfere & anticipate the consequences, - This is a drawback on Rome, but we must not surprise you as you do well know the character of the priesthood — I had just written thus

here, you'll be amused at all this but it's part of my policy in the midst of enemies who may be hungering for my place

You'll be tired of reading such egotistic scribble, but I can tell you these things & you alone you'll be pleased to hear that I am purchasing for a £ a beautiful Roman Villa & which I am to have the use of next Spring in the Gems, grow my vegetables & fruit, cultivate a flower garden & build the house which is now in ruins, knocked down during the siege of Rome – but I'll tell you more anon & some day I hope you may visit me in it. what a dream, yet this our modern World is a world of dreams realized, who knows but that you & I may bring it off

With my love to all your loving brother

Joe